

LGBT Inclusion in South Asian American Domestic Violence Services

Nikita Rao, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, nikita504@utexas.edu

Introduction

- South Asian American domestic violence (SAA DV) services are a microcosm of the American DV nonprofit sector. During the 1980s, they emerged as grassroots organizations in major cities.
- Currently, there are 20-30 SAA DV nonprofits in the United States (4 in Texas alone). They offer culturally sensitive and trauma-informed aid to mainly South Asian women.
- The goal of this cross-sectional study is to **assess the scope of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender)-inclusive services in SAA DV nonprofit organizations.**

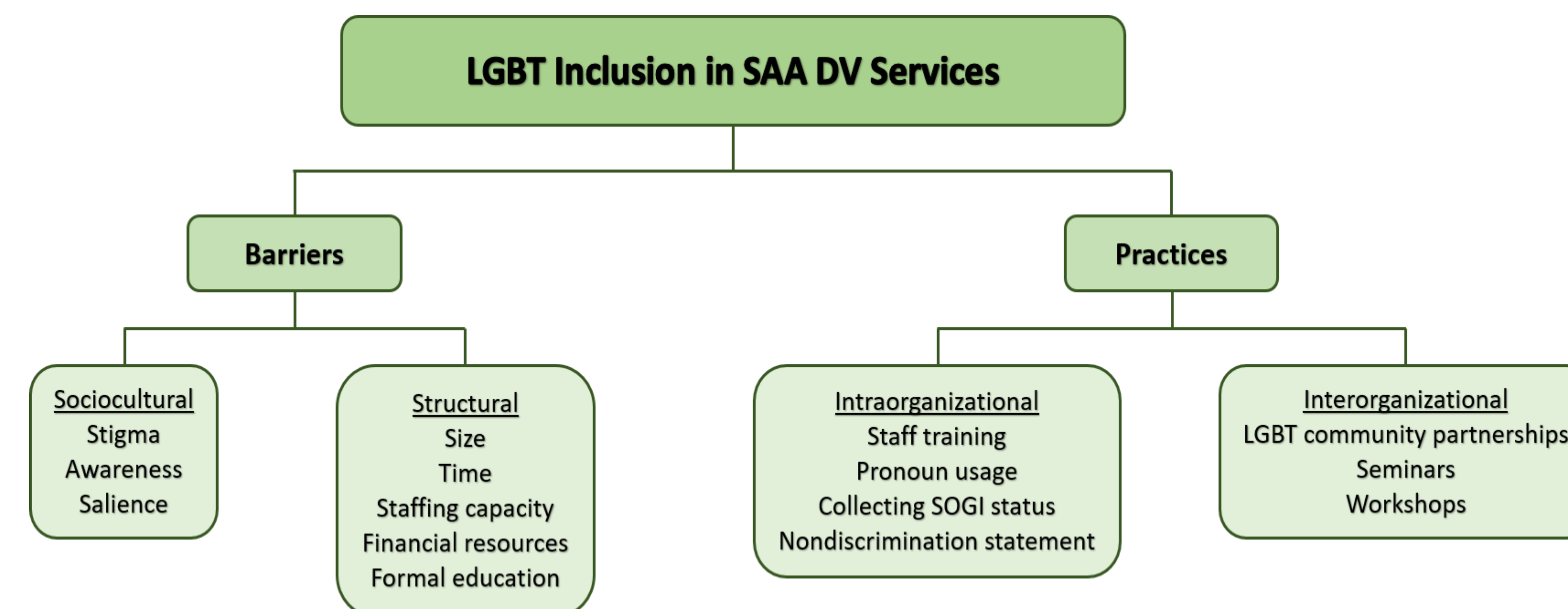
Methods

- A survey, consisting of multiple choice and free response questions, was used to determine the breadth of LGBT-inclusive services offered by SAA DV nonprofits. Surveys were disseminated to employees of nonprofits.
- Survey topics included:
 - Staff demographics
 - Financial capacity
 - Implementation of inclusive policies
 - Perceived barriers to inclusion
- 24 nonprofits were contacted, 12 completed the survey, 10 ignored requests for participation, 2 explicitly refused to participate

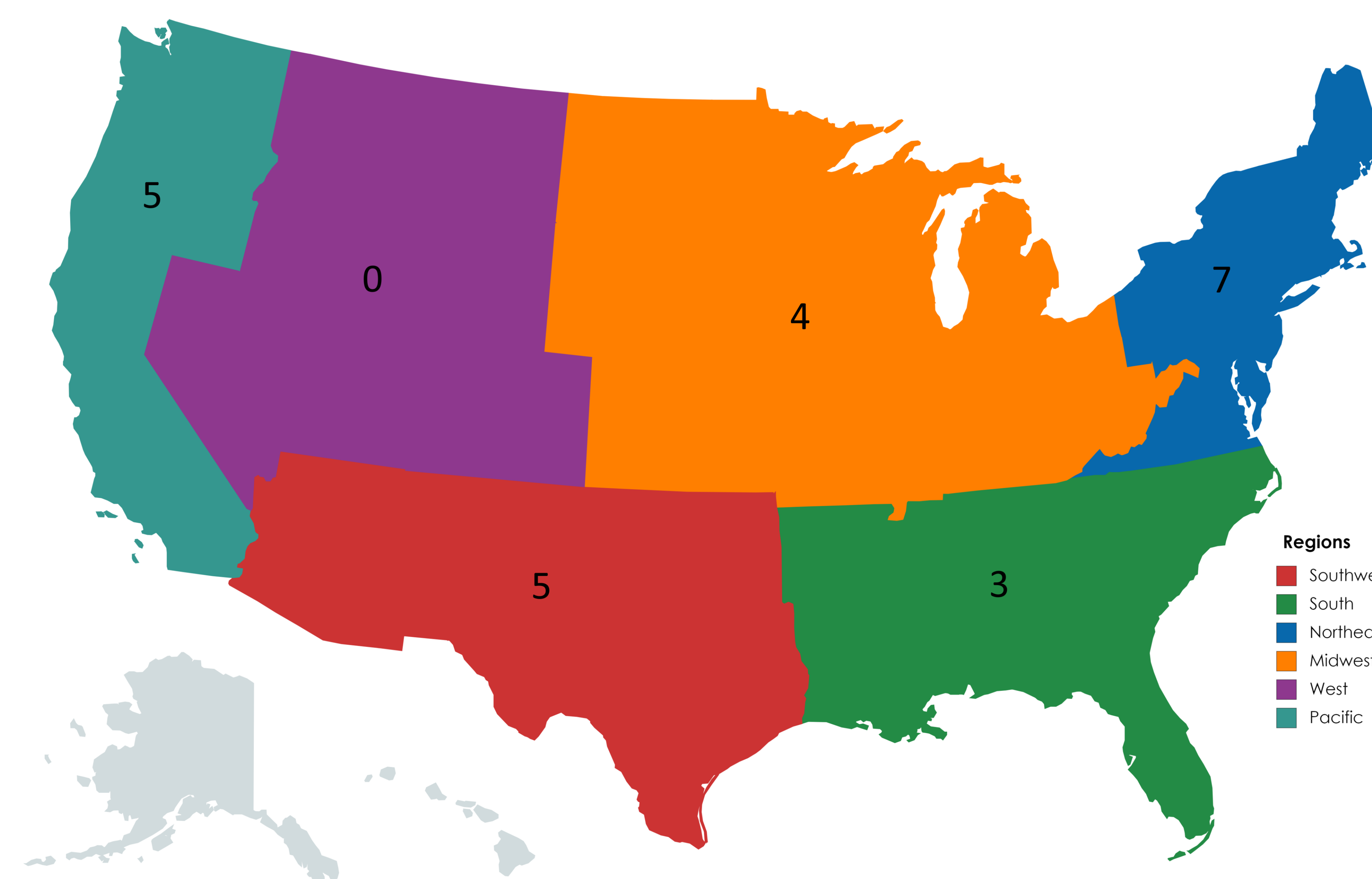
Preliminary Results

Thematic analysis of the data revealed the following:

- Sociocultural (community-wide) and structural (organization-wide) barriers hinder LGBT engagement and inclusion.
- Size and financial resources are the most prominent structural barriers to inclusion. Common sociocultural barriers are stigma and lack of awareness.
- The few nonprofits that do offer LGBT-inclusive services focus on the following engagement activities: workshops alongside local LGBT organizations, staff sensitivity training, seminars.



Thematic diagram of preliminary results



Infographic map depicting distribution of SAA DV nonprofits by region within the continental USA

Discussion

- Comprehensive research on the Asian American LGBT population is lacking, due to stigma and ethnic heterogeneity. The preliminary results of this study contribute to a growing body of knowledge on intersectionality within the LGBT community.
- Increasing state and federal funding can help nonprofits expand their services to be LGBT-inclusive.
- Future research can focus on the perspectives and help-seeking behaviors of South Asian, LGBT-identifying individuals facing domestic violence.

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